

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

Vol. I.

BENTON, MO., MAY 10, 1902.

No. 26.

James Monroe Seibert.

Something About Missouri's "Heap Big Boss," Who Pulls the Strings and Furnishes the People a Clever Marionette Show.

From the Kansas City Independent.

One man in Missouri is underrated. He is James Monroe Seibert. Many people take a superficial glance at him and also him up as an office-holder who merely has the knack of riveting himself to jobs. But he does more than that.

Not only is Mr. Seibert an acquirer of political jobs, but he is a master of men. He controls them, moves them, bosses them. And it is to his credit that he does all this without a brass band. He perfectly understands the art of self-commendation. As for the man with which he toys, they never know who is pulling the string. In fact, they don't know that there is any string—not until long afterward.

Seibert began his political career fortunately. He selected a good place—southeast Missouri. Here he found no rivals and no effective opposition. The swamps of that section are full of statesmen, colonels, and judges, but they are not the forceful kind. They don't do things. They are long on talk and short on action. Seibert told it privately once that they lacked iron in their blood. He always held them in supreme contempt—which he cunningly concealed.

Seibert began with four years as sheriff of Cape Girardeau county. Then he took six years as collector. "Took" is the proper word. Nobody offered him the office; neither did he ask anybody for it. When Seibert reached for anything, the Cape county Democrats always meekly assented.

During these years he reigned not only in Cape county, but he reached out into the congressional district. State senators and circuit judges were mere diversions. Congressmen he made and unmade. On one occasion the sitting member had rebelled at Seibert's rule and declared he could carry Cape county without him. The milk and water court crowd at the county seat were all for the congressman; the mass convention was to be held at Jackson, the anti-Seibert stronghold, and it looked like a procession.

Two days before the convention Seibert saddled his horse and rode into the swamps. On convention day four hundred horsemen rode into Jackson with James Monroe at their head. The sequel was a new congressman.

And these statesmen from the southeast never tried to get even. Seibert cut off their heads whenever it suited him, yet they always smiled and kissed the hand which smote them. In all his state contests Seibert never felt their hand against him. And the younger generation down there confides to him, and the old. Evidently they are afraid of him.

Often they make threats. They vow by all the gods that Jim Seibert shall be overthrown in the next campaign. But, when the next campaign rolls round, it develops that Colonel Jones' son wants to be postmaster, Major Smith's brother-in-law wants to be coal oil inspector, and Judge Thompson's nephew wants a job at Jefferson City. So they fall over one another to get into the Seibert camp.

From district politics to state politics was easy. In 1884 he became state treasurer; from this in 1888 to state auditor. In '92 he was renominated without opposition. In '96 two or three candidates opposed him for a fourth term, and Champ Clark delivered his famous convention philippic against rotation of offices but it didn't stop Seibert.

Perhaps the most noteworthy feature of the years Seibert held state office was the fatal malady which afflicted other office seekers from the southeast. They all seemed unlucky. Seibert was always for them—but, somehow, they failed to get the nomination.

One man wanted to be governor; he failed. Another wanted to be attorney general; the district refused to endorse him. Some half dozen tried for railroad commissioner; they invariably lost out. A dozen others aspired to various state offices from time to time, but they always received advice not to run. The result was a clear field for Seibert when he came up for his usual re-nomination. Finally Governor Francis appointed John L. Thomas, from southeast Missouri, to a vacancy on the supreme bench. He was a good judge; he made an excellent record. No able lawyer ever served in that capacity.

At the St. Louis convention in

'92 he was defeated.

Nobody could ever tell just how it happened or why. Seibert occupied a box with Judge Thomas' daughters at that convention, and was prompt to extend his sympathy, so it could not have been his fault. Yet a north Missouri lawyer in his cups boasted the next day of a secret conference at the Laclede hotel a week before the convention, at which he claimed that Burgess was slated and Thomas scratched. He named John Carroll and Jim Seibert as two of the conferees, but he may have lied about it.

It sounds improbable, anyhow. Men who know Seibert say he doesn't talk to more than one man at a time. Joe J. Russell, of Mississippi county, who wants to be attorney general—if Seibert will permit it, says he never knew Seibert to talk unreservedly, even about the weather, if the audience numbered more than one. It is such precautions that have always kept him confident. Men come out of conventions wild with rage; they curse him, accuse him of treachery, denounce him as a liar and a scoundrel, but they never can prove it.

At the Jefferson City convention in '96 one disappointed candidate went to Seibert crying like a child. Through his tears he bitterly reproached Seibert for having deceived him as to the thirteenth and fourteenth districts—by which Seibert owns himself. This aggrieved candidate vowed vengeance. Seibert only smiled. Two years later the avenger was fit the Madison House lobby helping Jim Seibert elect his main Friday speaker of the house.

When it comes to concealing his trail, Seibert can give pointers to an Apache. In the campaign of 1900 Tom Parks, candidate for railroad commissioner, made an alliance with Seibert. Tom didn't like him; in fact he despised Seibert and distrusted him. Yet, Tom wanted to be railroad commissioner, so he made terms with Seibert and delivered to Seibert's man, Allen, some thirty or forty votes from northwest Missouri.

After Allen had been nominated for auditor the contest came on for railroad commissioner. To the boys who listened it sounded queer to hear Cape, Perry and New Madrid counties, in the southeast, voting for Parks, in the extreme northwest. That was Seibert, ostentatiously delivering his goods. But to Tom's ears came the more ominous sound of the police wards in St. Louis and Kansas City voting for Herrington. Seibert and Dockery owned these wards, but they explained that Gov. Stephens had bribed them on railroad commissioner. Tom wondered how a retiring governor could exert such influence with a police ward delegation—and he is yet thinking.

It was true that Stephens didn't like Parks, but the governor, always headless of his foes, gave very little attention to Parks' contest. Had Stephens really cared to oppose Parks, he could easily have swamped him with his many loyal friends from the rural counties. The governor knew too much of politics to expect loyalty or gratitude from the police ward delegates.

Seibert's feats in the inter-party contests of 1900 were hardly realized by the unthinking public. By his own skillful maneuvering he created Dockery governor, Allen auditor, and himself chairman of the state committee. It was Seibert who induced the St. Louis Republic to create the stamped to Dockery by pretending to print the views of the Pumpkinville Paragon and the other rural organs.

It was Seibert who galvanized into political life his only-going satellite and chief clerk, and bequeathed to him the office of state auditor. Seibert claimed he made Allen auditor out of pure gratitude for faithful service. The fact that he enabled Seibert to keep a vote on the state board of equalization and thereby retain his hold with the railroads, if of course, unworthy of consideration. It was Seibert who made Seibert chairman in Sam Cope's place. Cope didn't want him. Phelps didn't want him. Stone distrusted him—a little reason. Even Dockery was a little afraid of him but didn't dare say so. Yet they all wined and checked it up to Seibert.

After having it practically won, Seibert got rattled at the state convention and came very near to quit-

ting. The "young crowd" went after his scalp, and he was "up in the air" for a couple of days. But Dockery rushed into the breach. Dave Ball had quit the race for governor and consequently Dockery was brave, as he always is when he has no opposition, and he soon made it a cinch for Seibert.

Of all his conquests none of them was equal to Seibert's coup in landing the job of excise commissioner of St. Louis, which pays \$12,000 per year. Dockery had it framed up to make Seibert insurance commissioner at \$8,000 per year. As insurance commissioner, Seibert would have to stay at Jeff City, where Dockery could watch him, and would practically rank as a state-house clerk. But this didn't suit Seibert. He wanted to be at St. Louis on \$12,000 per year, where he could eat lobster, take Turkish baths, scold the saloons and do business with the Transit company.

In January it was announced that "at the request of the governor Mr. Seibert had consented to act as temporary excise commissioner of St. Louis." This was given to the newspapers by Dockery himself. The truth was that the appointment was on Seibert's demand. Dockery didn't want to do it. At first he refused to do it. Ten St. Louis boys wanted the job themselves, and Dockery had promised, before his nomination, to give the job to a St. Louis man. Dockery hates to do anything unpopular, even for Seibert.

But the big chairman of Dockery's committee got drunk, stood pat and refused all other plans. Then Dockery wilted again and made the appointment—temporarily.

When it was announced to be temporary, people smiled. But Dockery was in good faith about it, as much as he can be. Dockery always has a mental reservation. No man can look into the future and tell accurately on which side his interests may be.

To show that the governor was in earnest about the "temporary" part of it, he told Judge Guinn in April that he would positively bring Seibert back to Jeff City on June 1 to be insurance commissioner. Dockery wouldn't lie premeditatedly to a judge of the supreme court.

Dockery had his own consent—and Sam Cook's—to bring Seibert back, but he didn't have Seibert's consent. As soon as he landed in St. Louis James Monroe started in to make his job permanent. He visited the Republic office; did business, and straightaway its writers discovered that the St. Louis public favored Seibert's perpetuation. He took H. Hawes up into the mountains, and the young police boss had his part of the city committee to come out for Seibert. He captured Ed. Butler with kind words, etc., principally etc., and the remainder of the committee reported in favor of "making the temporary organization permanent."

With the machine "demanding" Seibert's retention, and every man, woman and child in St. Louis "implored" for him, through the Republic, Dockery could see no objection to extending the temporary appointment to four years. As soon as Dockery found out that all the people hungered for Seibert, he gracefully surrendered. Dockery will unhesitatingly do anything for a friend when it's popular.

All these accomplishments of Seibert are literally true. Dockery knows it; so does Sam Cook; so does Stone; so does John Carroll; ditto Bill Phelps. All of these lay down to Seibert, all but Bill Phelps. Seibert knows he can't bluff Phelps, so he tries to get along without him.

One time Seibert said to Phelps: "What's the use to tell it. Even if it were known, Seibert wouldn't care much."

A Musical Treat.

The Sacred Cantata, entitled, "The Rolling Seasons," rendered by the choir of the Methodist church at Commerce, last Sunday night, was greatly enjoyed by a fine audience. We are glad to announce that they have consented to render the same at Benton, at the morning preaching on May 18th.

We will furnish cost of parts and singers next week.

O. T. RODGERS, P. C.

FOR SALE.—Late seed Potatoes. Good variety, in lots of three bushels or more at \$1.00 per bushel until sold out. Ed Johnson will attend to customers in my absence.

HENRY F. DETERING, Commerce, Mo.

THE SOUTHEAST.

Doings and Happenings in Neighboring Counties.

Rev. Felix de Andries, first vicar-general of St. Louis, died in 1820 and was buried near Perryville. A few are yet living in St. Louis who were acquainted with Father de Andries. Testimony has been taken with a view to canonization and the remains will soon be exhumed and sent to Rome. Special interest attaches to the condition in which the remains will be found. Cases are on record where the bodies of persons who were known to have led pure lives were found in a perfect state of preservation.

People down in Dunklin county must be awfully ignorant. The Democrat says that "lots of people thought that the primary was a general election," and explains the heavy vote that the gold-bug, Wallace, got for United States senator by saying that the people thought they were voting for a home man by that name. This is equal to the vindicator's explanation of Ward's short vote in Stoddard county by saying that he had withdrawn.

We believe that Mills Williams, of the West Plains Quill, is honest and means well. Therefore we suggest that he more carefully examine into the origin and purpose of the Allied Third Party movement in Missouri and see if he cannot find "Brown" at the bottom of it. It is possible to be deceived, Bro. Williams.

A family in Fredericktown was found in a starving condition last week. The husband and father was sick and died. And this, too, in a city of schools and churches—and so soon after a trust company was organized there!

Twenty divorce cases were on the Scott county docket for the April term, and Butler county already announces twenty-nine for its June term—all of which proves the efficiency of our higher civilization.

Since the old-timers got so unmercifully walloped at the Republican convention held at Jackson, last Saturday, it is rumored that Ben Adams will join the Prohibition party.

Caruthersville is to have water-works. It has not been so many years since not only Caruthersville, but Pontiac county, was all water-works.

Thomas Baird, a Dunklin county farmer, was dangerously cut by Andy Kelso last week. Baird raised Kelso and was whipping him when Kelso cut him.

Geo. Steel, candidate for the Democratic nomination for representative of New Madrid county, defeated his opponent, J. J. Williams, 446 votes.

The Bloomfield Vindicator skipped a cog last week. The usual two columns from the Cook Book were omitted. What's wrong?

Cape Girardeau has hopes of a United States custom house. A bill to that effect is now pending before Congress.

Simon J. Bishop and Miss Mary Hamby, of near Benton, were granted a marriage license at Charleston last week.

Prof. Lee Bolcourt, of Cairo, has located at Charleston to teach music. Prof. Bolcourt is a fine musician.

The Stone County Oracle wants to know "what are the Democratic principles of today?" Ask Brown.

Two inches of hail fell in Stone county last week, damaging fruit and crops considerable.

Their Golden Wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel H. Leedy had been married fifty years last Sunday. Early Sunday morning their many relatives began to arrive at the Leedy residence, in Benton, to shower congratulations upon the aged though sprightly couple. A sumptuous dinner was served and a pleasant day was spent.

Mr. Leedy was born in Pennsylvania August 28th, 1828. He is a veteran of the Mexican war of 1845, and came to Scott county in 1848. On the 4th day of May, 1852, he was married to Miss Eliza Ellis, at the old Ellis homestead three miles north of Benton. Rev. D. Y. Rice, of Cape Girardeau, performed the ceremony. Mr. Leedy is a carpenter and builder and works actively at his trade. He will take the contract to build you a house today if you desire him to.

Mrs. Leedy was born on the Ellis homestead, within three miles of where she celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of her marriage, on December 1, 1855. She is in good health and finds no difficulty in attending to her household duties.

To the union were born thirteen children—only three of which are living, viz: Charles A., Emma and Daisy.

Mr. and Mrs. Leedy live contentedly and happily and are highly esteemed by their neighbors, who wish for them continued health and happiness. They are in good health and there is nothing to now indicate that they will not live to celebrate their diamond anniversary.

HAD A HOT TIME.

An Entire New Set of Officials Nominated in Cape County.

Whew! But it was hot in Jackson last Saturday. The Republicans of Cape Girardeau county met there in convention to nominate a county ticket and to select delegates to the state and judicial conventions.

Ever since Collector Flentge wrote his famous letter against life tenure in office things have been getting hotter and hotter in the Republican camp of that county. Flentge said that two terms in succession ought to satisfy any man, and that the young men ought to be given a chance and encouraged. The Cape Girardeau Republican was the only paper to support the Flentge movement.

Two papers at Jackson and one at Cape Girardeau held to that old threadbare argument that the longer a man is in office, the better he is fitted for it, and that true and tried men should not be swapped off for inexperienced ones.

It was a fight between the professional office-holders and the young Republicans of Cape Girardeau county. The old set were for Dick Keros and his crowd, just as the old set of Democrats are for Phelps, Seibert and their crowd. The young Republicans were opposed to Keros and favored Tom Atkins as their leader.

It was a hot fight, and it is reported that several bloody noses resulted. The old crowd hung on like grim death, but the young fellows were determined and they won. The old crowd was routed completely. They didn't get a smell. And after the first day of next January the men who have been holding down comfortable public positions for these many years will have to get out and hunt a job just as other people do.

The following county ticket was nominated: Representative, G. C. Thibault; sheriff, D. A. Nichols; collector, C. L. Grant; treasurer, Fritz Siemens; probate judge, R. M. Sawyer; county clerk, Frank Tucker; circuit clerk, Henry Puls; common pleas clerk, William Haupt; county judges, L. F. Klostmann, L. F. Thomas and W. P. Thompson; prosecuting attorney, Charles Dancy; coroner, J. D. Porterfield.

The delegates to the state convention were instructed for T. J. Atkins for state chairman, and the delegates to the judicial convention were instructed for N. A. Moxley for supreme court judge.

County Court Proceedings.

County court met on Monday with Judges Reeder, Batts and Welch, Clerk McPheters. Prosecuting Attorney Kelly and Sheriff Henderson present.

Dramshop license granted to J. H. Shelby and S. W. White, Sikeston. J. A. and T. E. Cheving allowed \$150 for building bridge over ditch of the Johnston Land Co. on Commerce and Blodgett roads.

John McKoon allowed \$170 for working roads in dist. 17. Andrew Dirlinger allowed \$160 for fixing bridge and culverts.

Duffy & Scherer allowed \$280 for J. C. Drury allowed \$28.30, lumber and building bridge in Kelso twp. Amos Drury allowed \$8 for timber and labor.

Du Fullenwider allowed \$47.85, amounts paid and labor and material furnished in road dist. 7. Louis Brown and Jesse M. Spradlin allowed \$100 for work on N. O. Ellis road.

J. A. Armstrong allowed \$100 for building bridge across drainage ditch west of Morley—base the road. J. A. Armstrong allowed \$100 for building bridge across drainage ditch three miles south of Morley.

A. J. Jenkins allowed \$200, levying public road 1 1/2 miles south of Jeving. \$400 loaned J. A. Armstrong out of money belonging to dist. 2-28-13.

In matter of road petitions in Morley township presented by T. E. Tomlinson et al., and W. H. Stubbfield et al., surveyor ordered to view and report.

In matter of private road of Louis Hillemann (John Schlitz, John Uhlmann and Jos. Hahn, commissioners) report of commissioners approved and road established—Hillemann paying all accrued costs.

In matter of drainage of swamp lands in Cape Girardeau and Scott counties, court finds error in proportion and continued to June 2. W. L. Carroll, viewer, allowed \$96.22, and Otto Koeltzky, surveyor, allowed \$320.67, payable out of county revenue fund.

Time for completion of drainage ditch No. 4, West swamp, by Pollard, Goff & Co., extended to September 1, 1902. Ordered that warrant for \$29,838.89 be drawn in favor of Pollard, Goff & Co., to be paid out of any funds to the credit of said district.

Allowances—Susan Surllett, \$10; Frank Owens, \$18; Emeline Spencer, \$20; Wm. Long, \$10; Jas. Liddell, \$10; J. F. Borchert, \$33; Jos. Ramsey, \$15; Lucinda Penny, \$10; Florio Rhoades, \$10; W. M. Golen, \$25; M. H. Trask, \$20; Emma Nations and child, \$15; Mary Owens, \$10; J. R. Simpson, \$20; K. Perte, \$10; Thos. Ferguson, \$10; Ben Clark, \$5; Adam McCauley, \$10; L. Bucher, \$20; Martin Bisher, \$10.25; Rachel Gregory, \$10; Josephine Smith, \$15, all for paupers or care of paupers. Jas. McPheters, wood, \$45; Ben F. Marshall Merc. Co., pauper coffin and robe, \$7; Walker & Son, coal oil, \$1.85; J. P. Westrich, repairing road scraper, \$8; Benton Record, printing, \$14; Frank McGraw, erroneous tax, \$14; Frank Kelly, prosecuting attorney, quarterly salary, \$125; B. F. Allen, treasurer, quarterly salary, \$125; J. H. Grant, janitor, quarterly salary, \$61; Henry Malsfeld, sewer pipe, \$0.

Ambros Bles, Kelso, Mo., is the agent for Osborne machines and repairs. All repairs kept on hand.

ROUND-ABOUT.

Deputy Surveyor J. E. Warner and Miss Alice Harper, of Commerce, were married by Rev. Jordan, at Charleston, Tuesday evening. They return to Benton Wednesday and are stopping at the Walker House.

Jesse M. Spradlin, Louis Brown and Squire Hunter, of Commerce township, dropped in at the Kicker office Tuesday.

Frank McGraw, of Oran, and Peter Hollinger, of Bleda, had business in the county court Tuesday.

Sheriff Henderson returned from Jefferson City Saturday. He reports things quiet at the capital.

Mrs. J. W. Clemson attended the silver medal contest at Morehouse last Saturday evening.

Marriage license were granted to H. C. Deubow and Miss Edie Daniel, both of Blodgett, Saturday.

Philip Renkel, of Kelso township, visited Marble Hill the first of the week.

Wm. V. Head, brother to Mrs. Jas. Walker, of Benton, died at Mariana, Ark., Saturday.

Oran is to have a ball and supper on the evening of May 15. Ball at Ashley's Hall.

The merchants of Commerce have started a Sunday closing agreement.

For sale.—387 acres 140 acres in cultivation at Batts school house; 90 acres in cultivation on Little River. One-third cash; balance on long time. W. R. Batts.

Late News Notes.

Reports from the best trust investigation said to be going on at Jefferson City bring the expected probability that the "pickers" refuse to appear before the Missouri supreme court. Of course, what are the pickers for a farce like the Missouri supreme court?

An engineer on a Michigan passenger train became demoralized and dived his train through stations where he ought to have stopped at the rate of sixty miles an hour. He was overpowered and taken to a hospital.

The Republican congressional convention met at Cape Girardeau on Tuesday and nominated H. P. Kin-solting, of Dunklin county, as their candidate for congress from this, the 11th district.

Three congressmen—Salmon, Otney and Cummins—died the past week. It is the first time in history that three desks in the House were draped at the same time.

There wasn't power enough to bring Charles Knatz, the St. Louis boiler, home from Mexico. Too many "high up" people interested in keeping him there.

Mayor Duffield, of Buckner, Mo., was elected on the Prohibition ticket. Tuesday he was fined \$100 for selling liquor without a license.

Ed. Butler, the big Democratic (?) boss and boodler, of St. Louis, under indictment for bribery, has fled under pretext of change of venue.

The 21st annual encampment of the Department of Missouri, G. A. R., will be held at Cape Girardeau next Monday and Tuesday.

Joseph Klump, a Perry county farmer, was dangerously shot by his seven-year-old son Tuesday. Accidental.

Archbishop Corrigan, head of the archdiocese of New York, died last Monday at the age of 62.

Rear Admiral Sampson died at Washington last Tuesday, aged 62 years.

Bret Hart, American author, died in London Tuesday.

The Kicker reads it.

From Commerce.

Dr. Frazer, of whom we spoke of being in St. Louis a few days since, did not "use the grasshoppers told us" go to practice law in the U. S. district court, but to meet the governor at a social dinner, where they dined and discussed the sequel of which was the doctor received an appointment to the fat office of member of the board of managers of the Farmington insane asylum, the which carries a salary of an hundred per cent. And the doctor is being overflown with congratulations from friends, most of whom, we surmise, have method in their congratulation.

Norval Anderson has also been appointed a lieutenant in Gen. Jos. J. Russell's regiment, without request. Some men have greatness thrust upon them. But who says Commerce is not coming to the front! Other things are happening hereabouts, of which we may speak of later on.

The Grand Chain Mill Co. is still shipping wheat. It would appear to the casual that if Jackson can buy wheat here and ship over three railroads to get to mill and more or less to get flour to market, our mill could do something for the neighborhood by manufacturing it here where we have an all water route to all foreign markets.

There is quite a deal of land in Commerce township lying idle this year. The renters say "tis on account of the "strenuousness" of the landlord. The landlord says "tis because the railroad charges such exorbitant rates for hauling melons. Costs more to ship a car of melons five miles than to ship a car of wheat to Jackson.

Quite a "quantity" of the alert of our village attended the convention at the Cape Tuesday. Only one post office, boys; can't all have it, however. We are organizing for free delivery and walking is good. Perhaps most of you can get a job. There will be an excursion "if the weather is fair," next Sunday, to Thebes, Grays Point and Manning on the Str. Rob Roy. Men and boys, 25 cents. Women, girls and editors, free.

Dr. Shell Hutton is attending a meeting of the southeast M. Ds. at Jackson this week.

Miss Nellie Beattie, Dr. Blackledge and A. N. Ellis and wife are visiting in St. Louis.

Farmers, read the Kicker.

From Oran.

The W. C. T. U. had a silver medal contest at Morehouse last Saturday. The contestants were all Morehouse girls. The entertainment was certainly excellent, consisting of five temperance pieces—well rendered; solos, anthems and fire-string band music. Miss Eva Beasley won the silver medal. All the recitations were worthy of honorable mention.

Mrs. Allen Harrison, superintended the contest, ably assisted by Mrs. Bova and others. The Temple was beautifully decorated with flags, flowers, etc. The judges were Mrs. Julia Baker, Mrs. J. W. Clemson and Dr. Hart.

Harry A. DeLay returned from St. Louis this week where he went to attend the funeral of Miss Daisy DeLay, who had been an invalid for several years. She resided in Oran, some years ago and spent last summer here.

The Mission Sunday school at the Bryans school house hopes to have a basket dinner and all day service the fourth Sunday in May—a child's day service.

R. G. Applegate and daughter, Miss Lillian, and Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Ramey, of Sikeston, are attending the general conference at Dallas, Texas, this week.

Miss Mabel Tomlinson, of Morley, was the guest of her aunt, Mrs. Clemson, the past week.

Two new residences have just been completed in the south end of town. Oran is booming.

The little son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Mer, of Bleda, is dangerously ill of pneumonia.

Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Hinkle and Miss Verdie Tuck have returned from St. Louis.

Father Helmhaecher spent the first of the week in St. Louis.

Robert and Lillian Leslie, of Morley, visited here this week.

Mrs. Harry Kemper, of Bleda, was here last Sunday.

John Williams, of Cape Girardeau, was here last week.

From Bledgett.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Morris celebrated their wedding anniversary last week. The evening was delightfully spent in playing novel games, prizes being awarded the winners, who were Miss Estelle Evans and E. H. Boss.

The ladies of the Mutual Benefit Society will give an ice cream and strawberry social on May 22 at the Evans hall. Everybody invited.

Mrs. Johnstone and daughter visited Mr. Johnston this week. He accompanied them back to the city.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Farkins, of Proctor, Mo., spent a few days this week with Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Boss.

Miss Barbara Leuchs, who has been attending college in St. Louis, has returned home.

Mrs. Jesse E. Morris entertained several Charleston ladies at luncheon last Thursday.

Mrs. Chas. Stubbs returned home Saturday after a week's sojourn in St. Louis.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben F. Marshall and Miss Kate Austin are spending the week in St. Louis.

Mrs. E. H. Boss and son have returned from week's visit to friends at Maryland.

Miss Hill, of Caruthersville, is the guest of Mrs. Geo. Buchanan.

Miss Estelle Evans spent a few days at Sikeston last week.

Percy J. Kestling Sundayed with Morehouse friends.

From New Hamburg.

Louis Gosche and Miss Mary Schwartz were married during a high mass Tuesday. The attendants were Albert Schwartz and Miss Mary Gosche; Peter Gosche and Miss Rosy Essner. After the ceremony the usual festivities took place at the home of the bride.

Miss Rose Meritt, of Oran, accompanied by her mother, spent Thursday evening of last week with Miss Katie Schulte.

John Sike, who received a severe jolt in falling from a barn he was assisting in building on the John Witt farm, is improving.

Alex. Dunbar, the village painter, is doing a neat job for Leo Westrich.

Mrs. Chas. Groban and Mrs. Damm-muller are visiting in Ste. Genevieve county.

Mrs. Mike Gosche, who has been seriously ill, is improving and will soon be out again.

From Morley.

Mrs. L. C. Martin and